

Marriage-Related Policies

State Policy Choices

	Marriage, mentoring, education, and counseling programs	Marriage laws		Divorce laws
	Publicly-funded marriage program available in state [A]	Covenant marriage offered [1] [A]	Marriage education required prior to receiving marriage license [B]	Mandatory divorce education before granting divorce to parents [B]
	2003	2003	2002	2002
Alabama	Pilot/demonstration only	No	No	No
Alaska	No	No	No	No
Arizona	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Arkansas	No	Yes	No	No
California	Pilot/demonstration only	No	No	No
Colorado	Yes [2]	No	No	No
Connecticut	Pilot/demonstration only	No	No	No
Delaware	No	No	No	No
District of Columbia	Pilot/demonstration only	No	No	No
Florida	Pilot/demonstration only	No	No	Yes
Georgia	Pilot/demonstration only	No	No	No
Hawaii	No	No	No	Yes
Idaho	Pilot/demonstration only	No	No	No
Illinois	Pilot/demonstration only	No	No	No
Indiana	Pilot/demonstration only	No	Yes	No
Iowa	No	No	No	Yes
Kansas	No	No	No	No
Kentucky	Yes [2]	No	No	No
Louisiana	Yes	Yes	No	No
Maine	Pilot/demonstration only	No	No	No
Maryland	No	No	No	No
Massachusetts	No	No	No	No
Michigan	Pilot/demonstration only	No	No	No
Minnesota	Pilot/demonstration only	No	No	No
Mississippi	No	No	Yes	No
Missouri	Yes [2]	No	No	No
Montana	Yes	No	No	No
Nebraska	Pilot/demonstration only	No	No	No
Nevada	No	No	No	No
New Hampshire	Yes [3]	No	No	No
New Jersey	Yes	No	No	No
New Mexico	Yes	No	No	Yes
New York	Pilot/demonstration only	No	No	No
North Carolina	No	No	No	No
North Dakota	No	No	No	No
Ohio	Pilot/demonstration only	No	No	No
Oklahoma	Yes	No	No	No
Oregon	No	No	No	No
Pennsylvania	Yes	No	No	No
Rhode Island	No	No	No	No
South Carolina	Yes	No	No	No
South Dakota	No	No	No	No
Tennessee	Pilot/demonstration only	No	No	Yes
Texas	Yes	No	No	No
Utah	Yes	No	No	Yes
Vermont	No	No	No	No

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	2003	2003	2002	2002
Virginia	Yes	No	No	Yes
Washington	Pilot/demonstration only	No	No	No
West Virginia	No	No	No	No
Wisconsin	No	No	No	No
Wyoming	No	No	No	No
Total Yeses	14	3	2	8

Definition:

1: In states that offer it, couples have the option of a covenant marriage, which requires education before marriage and restricts divorce to certain grounds, including adultery, abuse, abandonment, or a long period of separation.

State-Specific Notes:

- 2: The funding for this program is used for training purposes only.
- 3: New Hampshire is currently researching a plan to implement, operate, and fund the marriage education program.

Sources:

A: Theodora Ooms, Stacey Bouchet, and Mary Parke, *Beyond Marriage Licenses: Efforts in States to Strengthen Marriage and Two-Parent Families*, Center for Law and Social Policy, 2004.

B: Karen Gardiner, Michael Fishman, Plamen Nikolov, Asaph Glosser, and Stephanie Laud, The Lewin Group, Inc., *State Policies to Promote Marriage: Final Report*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/marriage02f/report.htm> (accessed August 8, 2004).